

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Ecuador

SUBJECT Support of Government Policies by El Comercio

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1. At a meeting on or about 1 January 1949 President Calo Plaza Lasso of Ecuador and his Cabinet agreed that the Government needed a friendly, influential press, which would take an aggressive position in support of the administration. At the meeting Carlos Mantilla, editor and publisher of Quito's most outstanding newspaper, El Comercio, was called upon to meet these requirements. Mantilla agreed to devote his efforts to supporting the Government's position and toning down all opposition in future issues of El Comercio.
2. At the same meeting the appointment of Eduardo Salazar Gomez, who is extremely pro-American, to the post of Minister of Government was discussed. It was recognized by all present that this appointment would provide opposition groups with additional evidence that the administration is very pro-United States. It was concluded, however, that that fact is well known, and that the Government's plans for the future of Ecuador depend on assistance from the United States. The Cabinet and the President finally agreed that Salazar should be appointed regardless of public reaction and that they would face any issue raised by their pro-U. S. attitude.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 13 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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